

What is claimed is:

**1.** An apparatus comprising:

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains hardware for storing a unique identifier;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor;

a first software module associated with said processor, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said processor; and

means for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under control of said processor.

**2.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other.

**3.** The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

**4.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.

**5.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.

**6.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

**7.** The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second software module associated with said processor, wherein said second software module:

retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;

compares said first unique identifier with said list; and

enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

**8.** The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said second software module:  
stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and  
generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

**9.** The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said second software module also disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

**10.** An apparatus comprising:  
a computer peripheral comprising a first port;  
a host computer comprising a second port;  
a computer network comprising a third port and a fourth port, wherein said third port is coupled to said second port;  
a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains a first hardware for storing a unique identifier;  
said first hardware;  
a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples said first port to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to said fourth port;  
a first software module associated with said host computer, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said host computer; and  
a second hardware for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under the control of said host computer.

**11.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said second hardware is contained within said first adapter.

**12.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said second hardware is contained within said second adapter.

**13.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other.

**14.** The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

**15.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.

**16.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.

**17.** The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

**18.** The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a second software module associated with said host computer, wherein said second software module:  
retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;  
compares said first unique identifier with said list; and  
enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

**19.** The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said second software module also:  
stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and  
generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

**20.** The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said second software module disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

- 21.** An apparatus comprising:
- a computer peripheral comprising a first port;
  - a host computer comprising a second port;
  - a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains a first hardware for storing a unique identifier;
  - said first hardware;
  - a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples said first port to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to said second port;
  - a first software module associated with said host computer, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said host computer; and
  - a second hardware for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under the control of said host computer.
- 22.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said second hardware is contained within said first adapter.
- 23.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said second hardware is contained within said second adapter.
- 24.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other.
- 25.** The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.
- 26.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.
- 27.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.
- 28.** The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

**29.** The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a second software module associated with said host computer, wherein said second software module:  
retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;  
compares said first unique identifier with said list; and  
enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

**30.** The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said second software module also:  
stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and  
generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

**31.** The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said second software module also disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

**32.** An apparatus comprising a first adapter and a second adapter, wherein:  
said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter;  
said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor;  
said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector;  
said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector; and  
said second keyed-connector mates with said first keyed-connector.

**33.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for each peripheral.

**34.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a peripheral type.

**35.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a computer network associated with said processor.

**36.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a product type.

**37.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the list consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

**38.** The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector is destroyed when removed from said first port.